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Substantively Consolidated SIPA Liquidation of
Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC and
the Chapter 7 Estate of Bernard L. Madoff*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff-Applicant,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (SMB)

SIPA LIQUIDATION

(Substantively Consolidated)

Adv. Pro. No. 10-04749 (SMB)

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

IRVING H. PICARD, Trustee for the Substantively
Consolidated SIPA Liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff
Investment Securities LLC and Bernard L. Madoff,

Plaintiff,

v.

PHILIP F. PALMEDO,

Defendant.

**TRUSTEE'S REPLY MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

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INTRODUCTION

Defendant's¹ opposition and cross-motion for summary judgment raises no genuine dispute of material fact and concedes, as it must, that the deposits and withdrawals forming the basis of the Trustee's net equity calculation are accurate, entitling the Trustee to recover the \$600,000 of fictitious profits. Confronted with this inexorable conclusion, Defendant resorts to unscrupulous attacks on the Trustee and his experts and arguments that have already been raised and repeatedly rejected by this Court, the District Court, and, most recently, the Second Circuit.

Defendant repeatedly cites to cherry-picked trial testimony from *Picard v. Nelson*, 610 B.R. 197 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019) where this Court reviewed all of the evidence presented, including the testimony of the Trustee's expert witness Bruce G. Dubinsky, rejected the same arguments that Defendant raises here, and ruled overwhelmingly in the Trustee's favor. Indeed, based on the same evidence provided in this action, this Court previously concluded that: (1) the Trustee had standing and the jurisdictional arguments to the contrary lacked merit; (2) the Trustee demonstrated that Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC's IA Business was a Ponzi scheme and he is entitled to rely on the Ponzi scheme presumption to prove intent; (3) even if the Ponzi scheme presumption did not apply, the transfers were made with the actual intent to defraud based on the existence of badges of fraud; and (4) the defendants did not give "value" under section 548 of the Bankruptcy Code. *Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 215–18, 233–36. The Court entered judgment in favor of the Trustee, including prejudgment interest. *Id.* at 238.

Defendant also accuses the Trustee of failing to produce trading records from 1992 to 2000. Not only did this Court reject Defendant's argument, but counsel for Defendant has been

¹ Defined terms shall have the same meaning prescribed in the Trustee's Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment (the "Motion"). See *Picard v. Palmedo*, Adv. Pro. No. 10-04749 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 28, 2020), ECF No. 100.

sanctioned for repeatedly making these claims against the Trustee. *SIPC v. BLMIS LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff)*, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (SMB), 2020 WL 1488399, at *19 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 20, 2020) (awarding attorneys’ fees and expenses against counsel personally). Despite this Court’s sanctions, counsel for Defendant continues to brazenly misrepresent the Trustee’s obligation to produce these documents.

With no admissible evidence to the contrary, Defendant resorts to claiming the Trustee’s expert perjured himself during his testimony in *Nelson*. But Mr. Dubinsky’s testimony was entirely consistent with his expert report. Defendant’s baseless credibility attacks are insufficient to challenge Mr. Dubinsky’s unequivocal and unimpeached conclusions. !

The Court should grant summary judgment in the Trustee’s favor.

ARGUMENT

I. THE TRUSTEE HAS STANDING AS THE TRANSFERS WERE AN INTEREST OF THE DEBTOR IN PROPERTY

SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(3) allows the Trustee to “invoke the fraudulent transfer provisions in the Bankruptcy Code to recover customer property,” transferred by the debtor. *Picard v. Gettinger (In re BLMIS LLC)*, No. 19-0429, 2020 WL 5666677, at *12 (2d Cir. Sept. 24, 2020). Thus, the Trustee must demonstrate that the transferred money was customer property. The Trustee laid out at length in his brief the reasons why the transfers to Defendant were customer property transferred by the SIPA debtor—BLMIS. *See* Motion at II.B., ECF No. 100.

The Trustee has standing to bring an avoidance action to recover fraudulent transfers of customer property that he alleges depleted the BLMIS customer property estate and, if successful, will replenish it. *See Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 216; *see also In re BLMIS LLC*, 2020 WL 5666677, at *13 (holding BLMIS’s payments to customer “were transfer of fictitious profits in excess of principal that depleted the resources of the customer property fund”). Like the

Defendant here, the *Nelson* defendants argued that the Trustee lacked standing to avoid the transfers because Madoff, rather than BLMIS, made the transfers. *Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 216. This Court rejected the entire premise, finding the Trustee had standing because he:

br[ought] the avoidance actions as a representative of an insolvent customer property estate to avoid and recover transfers for the benefit of the customer property estate which was injured by the fraudulent transfers of customer property, and the Trustee's action will redress that injury by replenishing the funds in the customer property estate available to satisfy the customers' net equity claims in the SIPA proceeding.

Id. at 215 (citations omitted).

Defendant attempts to cast the Trustee's claim as a standing issue, but he "conflate[s] subject matter jurisdiction with the merits of the Trustee's claims." *Id.* at 216. The only admissible evidence before the Court demonstrates that the Trustee can recover customer property regardless of whether that property is held in an account with the letters "LLC" and despite whose name appears on the top of a check. *See* Stmt. ¶¶ 9–11, ECF No. 101. Defendant may contend that whether BLMIS made the transfers is disputed, but such a dispute is not a genuine one that should defeat the Trustee's Motion.

II. THE TRUSTEE'S MOTION RESTS ON ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE

A. Expert Reports May Properly Be Considered on a Motion for Summary Judgment

In determining whether the moving party has met its burden of establishing that no genuine issue of material fact exists, a court may rely on expert opinions. *See Olin Corp. v. Lamorak Ins. Co.*, 332 F. Supp. 3d 818, 838 (S.D.N.Y. 2018) ("The summary judgment standard requires a court to 'consider all relevant, admissible evidence,' and . . . expert opinions, as a general matter, are admissible so long as they meet the criteria set forth in Federal Rule of Evidence 702." (citation omitted)); *In re Barclays Bank PLC Sec. Litig.*, 756 F. App'x 41, 47 n.5

(2d Cir. 2018). Expert testimony may form the basis of summary judgment particularly “when a party opposing summary judgment fails to present evidence sufficient to make an issue of an expert’s conclusion—such as contrary opinion evidence or evidence tending to undermine the expert’s credibility or qualifications—and when the trier of fact would not be at liberty to disregard arbitrarily the unequivocal, uncontradicted, and unimpeached testimony of an expert.” *Rivera v. Home Depot USA, Inc.*, 776 F. App’x 4, 7–8 (2d Cir. 2019).

In attempting to rebut a moving party’s expert evidence to defeat summary judgment, a nonmoving party must do more than simply assert that the expert evidence is not credible. For example, in *Michael v. Gen. Motors Co.*, the court found that the plaintiff’s contention that the defendant’s experts were not credible was “insufficient to overcome the expert affidavits.” 15 Civ. 3659(CM), 2018 WL 6332883, at *13 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 13, 2018) (internal quotation marks omitted) (citing *Gan v. City of New York*, 996 F.2d 522, 532 (2d Cir. 1993)).

Defendant has not challenged the substance of the Trustee’s expert’s opinions, instead resorting to selective recitation of the trial record in *Nelson* to argue that the Trustee’s expert, Mr. Dubinsky, somehow perjured himself by offering testimony that is consistent with his report.

B. The Plea Allocutions Are Admissible to Prove the Existence of a Ponzi Scheme

As set forth in the Motion, guilty pleas and admissions under oath are admissible to prove the existence of a Ponzi scheme. *See Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 209–10 (“Criminal plea allocutions are admissible under the exceptions to the hearsay rule set forth in FED. R. EVID. 803(22) for a judgment of a previous conviction and FED. R. EVID. 807’s residual exception to hearsay.”); *Picard v. Legacy Cap. Ltd.*, 603 B.R. 682, 689 n.8 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2019) (collecting cases) (“The Court may rely on a plea allocution as evidence to support a fact.”). These admissions support a finding that “there is no genuine disputed issue of fact that BLMIS was a Ponzi

scheme.” *Legacy*, 603 B.R. at 693. A finding that BLMIS was a Ponzi scheme is accordingly appropriate on summary judgment.

C. The BLMIS Books and Records Are Admissible Under the Business Records Exception to the Hearsay Rule

Records made and kept in the ordinary course of a business are admissible pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 803(6) if: (1) the statements were recorded at or near the time of the purported transaction; (2) the record was made by or from information communicated by an individual with personal knowledge; and (3) the record was made in the regular practice of business activity. *Phoenix Assocs. III v. Stone*, 60 F.3d 95, 101 (2d Cir. 1995).

Courts construe Rule 803(6) generously in favor of admissibility with the principal precondition to admission being the reliability of the documents. *Potamkin Cadillac Corp. v. B.R.I. Coverage Corp.*, 38 F.3d 627, 632–33 (2d Cir. 1994) (holding records properly admitted where they have “sufficient indicia of trustworthiness to be considered reliable”); *Saks Int’l, Inc. v. M/V “Export Champion”*, 817 F.2d 1011, 1013 (2d Cir. 1987). This is “due to the general trustworthiness of regularly kept records and the need for this type of evidence in many cases.” *Arista Recs. LLC v. Lime Grp. LLC*, 784 F. Supp. 2d 398, 421 (S.D.N.Y. 2011).

Once a *prima facie* case has been made that the records were made and kept in the ordinary course of a business, “Rule 803(6) favors the admission of evidence rather than its exclusion if it has any probative value at all.” *United States v. Kaiser*, 609 F.3d 556, 574 (2d Cir. 2010) (internal quotation marks omitted). Thus, objections to a business record’s accuracy or completeness go to the weight and not the admissibility of the evidence. *See United States v. Reyes*, 157 F.3d 949, 953 (2d Cir. 1998) (holding that employee’s testimony “provided an adequate basis for the district court to find that the [document] was trustworthy, despite [defendant’s] objections concerning irregularities”).

Defendant argues that the BLMIS books and records are not trustworthy because they are “permeated with fraud.” But business records of an entity engaged in fraud are routinely admitted into evidence. *See Kaiser*, 609 F.3d at 575–76 & n.6 (finding fraudulent activity did not preclude admissibility under business records exception); *Official Comm. Of Unsecured Creditors v. Martin (In re Enron Creditors Recovery Corp.)*, 376 B.R. 442, 454–58 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007) (admitting debtor’s records under business records exception even though Enron was engaged in fraudulent financial transactions); *In re Adelphia Commc’ns Corp.*, No. 02-41729 (REG), 2006 WL 346418, at *1 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 6, 2006) (admitting debtors’ books and records as business records under Rule 803 even though principals engaged in bank fraud, securities fraud, and conspiracy through debtor). In *Curtis v. Perkins (In re Int’l Mgmt. Assocs., LLC)*, the Eleventh Circuit upheld the admission of records under the business records exception even though the bankruptcy court found that the business was a Ponzi scheme that “was not set up to, and did not, conduct any legitimate business at all.” 781 F.3d 1262, 1267–69 (11th Cir. 2015). Indeed, the BLMIS books and records have been admitted into evidence and relied upon multiple times in this liquidation. *See Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 223–24 (finding BLMIS books and records offered by the Trustee admissible); *SIPC v. BLMIS LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff)*, 592 B.R. 513, 527–29 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2018), *aff’d*, *In re BLMIS LLC*, 605 B.R. 570, 584–87 (S.D.N.Y. 2019), *aff’d*, No. 19-2988-bk, 2020 WL 5902581 (2d Cir. Oct. 6, 2020).

III. THE TRUSTEE HAS ESTABLISHED HIS PRIMA FACIE CASE

A. The Ponzi Scheme Presumption Applies

Defendant contests the Ponzi scheme presumption, arguing that the Trustee has failed to demonstrate that Madoff’s Ponzi scheme meets the four-factor test articulated in *Gowan v. Amaranth Advisors LLC (In re Dreier LLP)*, No. 08-15051 (SMB), 2014 WL 47774 (Bankr.

S.D.N.Y. Jan. 3, 2014). But *Dreier* was clear that the four-factor test is only one of many ways to show a Ponzi scheme, and explained that:

[s]ome courts have discussed a four-factor test . . . [while o]thers have identified badges that weigh in favor of finding a Ponzi scheme, including the absence of any legitimate business connected to the investment program, the unrealistic promises of low risk and high returns, commingling investor money, the use of agents and brokers paid high commissions to perpetuate the scheme, misuse of investor funds, the “payment” of excessively large fees to the perpetrator and the use of false financial statements.

Id. at *9. These badges are merely characteristics of Ponzi schemes “but a Ponzi scheme can exist without them. At bottom, the label Ponzi scheme applies ‘to any sort of inherently fraudulent arrangement under which the debtor-transferor must utilize after-acquired investment funds to pay off previous investors in order to forestall disclosure of the fraud.’” *Id.* (citing *Bear, Stearns Sec. Corp. v. Gredd (In re Manhattan Inv. Fund Ltd.)*, 397 B.R. 1, 12 (S.D.N.Y. 2007).

Distinguishing its facts from the BLMIS liquidation, *Dreier* cited *Picard v. Madoff (In re BLMIS LLC)*, 458 B.R. 87, 104 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011) for the proposition that “[t]he breadth and notoriety of the Madoff Ponzi scheme leave no basis for disputing the application of the Ponzi scheme presumption to the facts of this case, particularly in light of Madoff’s criminal admission.” 2014 WL 47774, at *12. Marc Dreier did not admit to running a Ponzi scheme, *id.* at *11, and the *Dreier* Court found no evidence comparable to the magnitude and global renown of Madoff’s scheme warranting the Ponzi scheme presumption.

The Trustee relies on allocutions of Madoff, Frank DiPascali, David Kugel, Irwin Lipkin, Enrica Cotellessa-Pitz, and Eric Lipkin, all of whom were associated with, and pleaded guilty in connection with Madoff’s scheme. These employees testified that Madoff ran a Ponzi scheme through his IA Business, including that: (1) although investors were told their money was invested, no such investments occurred, Stmt. ¶¶ 92–94, 98; (2) instead of being invested,

investors' money was deposited into a single Chase bank account, *id.* ¶¶ 92, 99; (3) when investors sought to redeem their purported profits, they received their or other investors' money being held in the Chase account, *id.* ¶ 92; and (4) BLMIS issued false account statements to cover up the fact that it made no trades, *id.* ¶¶ 95, 99, 101. "The allocutions establish *prima facie* that Madoff ran BLMIS as a Ponzi scheme." *Legacy*, 603 B.R. at 691; *see also Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 208 (relying on plea allocutions in finding that BLMIS was a Ponzi scheme).

Additionally, Mr. Dubinsky confirmed that BLMIS never executed Madoff's purported split-strike conversion strategy ("SSC strategy"), or any other trading, on behalf of its customers, including Defendant. Stmt. ¶¶ 19–24; *see also Motion* at 7–13.

In the face of the allocutions and Mr. Dubinsky's testimony, Defendant provided no evidence to rebut the conclusion that BLMIS was a Ponzi scheme.

1. The Ponzi Scheme Presumption Applies Even If BLMIS Made Some Legitimate Trades

Despite all of the evidence to the contrary, Defendant argues that the IA Business was profitable, and that parts of Madoff's business engaged in legitimate trading. But even if some profits trickled into the IA Business, it is insufficient to rebut the Ponzi scheme presumption. Courts regularly apply the Ponzi scheme presumption where a debtor ran a legitimate business alongside a Ponzi scheme. For example, in *Gredd v. Bear, Stearns Sec. Corp. (In re Manhattan Inv. Fund Ltd.)*, Bear Stearns unsuccessfully argued that the Ponzi presumption: (i) only applies when the payments sought to be avoided are made to early investors and (ii) is inapplicable if the transfers were part of a legitimate business transaction. 310 B.R. 500, 506 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2002). Although the perpetrator was operating a Ponzi scheme, Bear Stearns argued that he legitimately short sold technology stocks separate from the Ponzi scheme. The court rejected that argument:

When a debtor operating a Ponzi scheme makes a payment with the knowledge that future creditors will not be paid, that payment is presumed to have been made with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud other creditors—regardless of whether the payments were made to early investors, or whether the debtor was engaged in a strictly classic Ponzi scheme.

Id. at 509. The court cited several cases in which the Ponzi presumption applied to schemes involving legitimate and illegitimate businesses and concluded that the argument that “fraudulent intent cannot be presumed . . . because the . . . payments at issue were made in connection with a legitimate business outside of the Ponzi scheme . . . is ludicrous.” *Id.* at 509–11; *see also Wing v. Layton*, 957 F. Supp. 2d 1307, 1315 (D. Utah 2013) (“Ponzi schemes sometimes use legitimate operations to attract investors, but this does not insulate those operations from the taint of the Ponzi scheme.”); *Jobin v. McKay (In re M & L Bus. Mach. Co.)*, 84 F.3d 1330, 1332 (10th Cir. 1996) (Ponzi scheme existed where its perpetrator used the company’s legitimate computer sales and leasing operations as a front); *Scholes v. Lehmann*, 56 F.3d 750, 757 (7th Cir. 1995) (Posner, J.) (“It is no answer that some or for that matter all of Phillip’s profit may have come from ‘legitimate’ trades made by the corporations. They were not legitimate. The money used for the trades came from investors gulled by fraudulent representations.”). Here, the existence of some legitimate trades in a Ponzi scheme—even if Defendant could prove they existed, which he cannot—will not affect the Ponzi scheme presumption. The Trustee has established there were no legitimate trades on behalf of any IA Business customer and thus, the Ponzi scheme presumption applies. *Legacy*, 603 B.R. at 693.

2. Even If the Ponzi Scheme Presumption Does Not Apply, Intent Can Be Satisfied Through “Badges of Fraud”

As an alternative to the Ponzi scheme presumption, a trustee may show certain “badges of fraud” to prove actual intent under section 548(a)(1)(A). *Banner v. Kassow*, 104 F.3d 352, at *2 (2d Cir. 1996); *see also In re Tribune Co. Fraudulent Conveyance Litig.*, No. 11-md-2296

(RJS), 2017 WL 82391, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 6, 2017). The Second Circuit has recognized the following badges of fraud:

(1) the lack or inadequacy of consideration; (2) the family, friendship, or close associate relationship between the parties; (3) the retention of possession, benefit, or use of the property in question; (4) the financial condition of the party sought to be charged both before and after the transaction in question; (5) the existence or cumulative effect of a pattern or series of transactions or course of conduct after the incurring of debt, onset of financial difficulties, or pendency or threat of suits by creditors; and (6) the general chronology of the event and transactions under inquiry.

Salomon v. Kaiser (In re Kaiser), 722 F.2d 1574, 1582–83 (2d Cir. 1983). The Second Circuit has also recognized that “[c]oncealment of facts and false pretenses by the transferor” may be a badge of fraud. *Id.* (citation omitted).

The Trustee’s proofs establish that the IA Business did not conduct trading on behalf of its customers: (i) the plea allocutions of Madoff and BLMIS employees, Stmt. ¶¶ 89–106; (ii) the IA Business computer system was not able to trade securities, Dubinsky Rpt. ¶¶ 273–89, ECF No. 104-1; (iii) the BLMIS books and records and other documents show that BLMIS was not trading securities, Stmt. ¶¶ 19–56; (iv) BLMIS’s limited T-Bill purchases were not on behalf of IA Business customers, *id.* ¶¶ 57–68; and (v) the IA Business had no other significant sources of funds (*i.e.*, loans, cash dividends), *id.* ¶¶ 69–84. In *Nelson*, this Court found that this evidence, as a matter of law, demonstrated that the Two-Year Transfers at issue bore at least three of the “badges of fraud” that imply actual intent to defraud: “(i) ‘[c]oncealment of facts and false pretenses by the transferor,’ (ii) BLMIS’s insolvency at the time of the Two-Year Transfers and (iii) the lack of consideration for the fictitious transfers.” 610 B.R. at 235 (“[T]he existence of the badges of fraud supply a separate basis to conclude that the Two-Year Transfers were made with the actual intent to defraud.”); *see also In re Tribune Co. Fraudulent Conveyance Litig.*, 2017 WL 82391, at *13 (existence of several badges is evidence of actual intent to defraud).

B. Bruce Dubinsky's Steadfast Opinion Is That the IA Business Did Not Purchase T-Bills *on Behalf of* Any Individual IA Business Customer

Defendant's scurrilous accusation that Mr. Dubinsky perjured himself is based on rhetoric, not fact. Mr. Dubinsky's report makes clear that he never hid the fact that BLMIS used IA Business customer money to purchase T-Bills. Dubinsky Rpt. ¶¶ 228, 340, Fig. 52. Mr. Dubinsky's report is also quite clear that "US Treasuries purchased using money from the 703 Account were not purchased *for* the IA Business Customers" but rather were purchased by the IA Business to earn additional interest on the cash it received from customers. *Id.* ¶ 228 (emphasis added). Mr. Dubinsky's testimony during the *Nelson* trial was entirely consistent with his report, and even where selectively quoted by Defendant, confirms that "[t]here was no evidence of treasuries being purchased *for* the IA business customers, plain and simple." Counterstatement of Material Facts ("CMF") ¶ 64, ECF No. 112 (emphasis added) (quoting Chaitman Ex. A [Nelson Tr. 5/8/19 at 132:9–14]); Dubinsky Rpt. ¶¶ 224–40; Declaration of Seanna R. Brown ("Brown Decl."), Ex. 1 (Trial Testimony of Bruce G. Dubinsky in *Picard v. Nelson* dated May 8, 2019 ("*Nelson* Tr.)) at 92:6–21, 128:5–19, 129:9–132:14, 177:16–178:12.

1. Mr. Dubinsky Analyzed the T-Bills Across All IA Business Customer Accounts and Concluded That No T-Bills Were Purchased for IA Business Customers, Including Defendant

BLMIS claimed it would intermittently invest IA Business customer funds in T-Bills as part of the SSC strategy. Mr. Dubinsky, however, found no evidence of such purchases having been made on behalf of IA Business customers. Mr. Dubinsky reviewed the BLMIS books and records to identify the unique T-Bills held by the Proprietary Trading Business on December 31 from 2002 through 2007. He then compared those holdings to: (i) those T-Bill positions held at BLMIS's account at the DTC, which serves as the custodian or the clearing house for treasuries; and (ii) the T-Bills purportedly held by the IA Business. Mr. Dubinsky determined that the T-

Bill CUSIPs (*i.e.*, unique security identifiers) held at the DTC under BLMIS's account matched those T-Bills reported as being purchased and held by the Proprietary Trading Business.

Conversely, none of the T-Bill CUSIPs held at the DTC under BLMIS's account matched those purportedly purchased and held on behalf of IA Business customers. Dubinsky Rpt. ¶¶ 224–26.

Mr. Dubinsky further compared the aggregate volume of T-Bills reported on the BLMIS customer statements as of each monthly statement to the total volume of T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts² and the Proprietary Trading Business as reported by the DTC for the same period. This analysis showed that the total volume of T-Bills purportedly held in the IA Business at year-end from 1998–2007 dwarfed the volume held in the Brokerage Accounts and the Proprietary Trading Business. *Id.* ¶ 227 & Table 5, ¶¶ 228–31 & Figure 36, Ex. 22. For example, by the end of 2007, the \$80 million in treasury positions held by the Proprietary Trading Business (as recorded on the DTC records) was only 0.14 percent of the approximately \$57 billion in T-Bills purportedly held by the IA Business at that time. *Id.* ¶ 227 & Table 5. During the *Nelson* trial, consistent with his report, Mr. Dubinsky testified that if the T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts were added up, the total would be “woefully short” of what appeared on BLMIS customer statements. Brown Decl., Ex. 1 (*Nelson* Tr.) at 177:19–178:12.

Moreover, Mr. Dubinsky's additional analysis verified that the T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts do not “match” the (i) trade date, (ii) volume, (iii) price, (iv) security description, and (v) maturity date for every purported treasuries position on the IA Business customer statements. Dubinsky Rpt. at 99 n.217, ¶¶ 232–40. Specifically, Mr. Dubinsky found that approximately 71% of the T-Bills do not have the same maturity date as any of the T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts, meaning 71% were never purchased by the IA Business. *Id.* ¶

² The T-Bills were held in various brokerage accounts and/or the JPMC custody account #G 13414 (collectively, the “Brokerage Accounts”). *See* Dubinsky Rpt. ¶ 228, n.213.

233, Ex. 23. Of the remaining 29% of the T-Bills—4,660 unique transactions—that did have the same maturity dates as those held on the Brokerage Accounts, there were only 20 unique instances in which the IA Business customer accounts purportedly purchased and sold a treasury on the same dates as the Brokerage Accounts. *Id.* ¶¶ 234–36. In each of the 20 instances, the purported volume of the T-Bills purchased and sold in the aggregate by the IA Business was higher than the actual volume purchased and sold in the aggregate by the Brokerage Accounts. *Id.* ¶¶ 239–40. Thus, none of the T-Bills identified on customer statements, including those identified by Defendant’s counsel, were the same T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts.

2. The Purchase of T-Bills by the IA Business Was for Cash Management, Not Purchases Made on Behalf of Any Individual IA Business Customer

Mr. Dubinsky’s report is clear that BLMIS’s limited purchases of T-Bills with funds from the 703 Account were not for any individual IA Business customer account, but rather were for the purpose of investing BLMIS’s excess cash—*i.e.*, cash management—and he testified accordingly. Dubinsky Rpt. ¶ 228; Brown Decl., Ex. 1 (*Nelson Tr.*) at 82:2–84:14, 85:3–23, 90:20–91:6, 152:22–153:11, 166:9–167:9. Frank DiPascali’s criminal trial testimony confirmed the same. DiPascali stated that the Brokerage Accounts were used to purchase T-Bills for BLMIS’s cash management purposes and not for IA Business customers. Cremona Decl., Ex. 2, (DiPascali Testimony) at 4921:7–12, 4930:6–4931:5, 4931:12–4933:13, 4961:15–4962:22 (Dec. 5, 2013); 5344:24–5346:3 (Dec. 10, 2013); 6950:25–6951:9 (Jan. 13, 2014), ECF No. 102-3; *see also* Brown Decl., Ex. 2 (DiPascali Testimony) at 4803:23–4804:21 (Dec. 4, 2013).

The Court previously considered and rejected Defendant’s current objections to the admissibility of DiPascali’s testimony when it previously admitted DiPascali’s testimony under Federal Rule of Evidence 807 because it was both relevant and trustworthy. *Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 229. DiPascali purchased the T-Bills held by the Brokerage Accounts *and* generated the

fictitious holdings of T-Bills reported on the customer statements. “DiPascali’s direct testimony established that the T-Bill trades appearing on the customer statements were fabricated and bore no relationship to BLMIS’s use of funds in the 703 Account to purchase T-Bills as a cash management tool. In other words, the actual T-Bill purchases were never allocated to the IA Business customers.” *Id.* at 228–29. DiPascali’s testimony was “obviously relevant” to how BLMIS managed its cash—“the material issue raised by the Defendants and is the most probative on that issue.” *Id.* at 229.

To the question of trustworthiness, DiPascali testified in *United States v. Bonventre* after he had already pleaded guilty but had yet to be sentenced. Thus, “[h]e had an interest in continuing to cooperate with the Government in the hope of a favorable sentencing recommendation. Conversely, he gave his testimony (for sixteen days) under oath in open Court and was subject to cross-examination in connection with anything he said.” *Id.* This Court found that DiPascali had no motive to lie and defendants had not identified “any inconsistencies between his allocution and his trial testimony, he never recanted his testimony, and his unavailability was due to his death rather than to any attempt to absent himself.” *Id.*

3. Defendant’s Speculation Regarding the T-Bills Does Not Create a Disputed Issue of Material Fact

Defendant provides no evidence to counter Mr. Dubinsky’s analysis or DiPascali’s testimony. Instead, Defendant speculates that the T-Bills held in the Brokerage Accounts were purchased for and should be credited to his account, over the thousands of other BLMIS accounts where the same T-Bills were also reported. As set forth above, Mr. Dubinsky’s analysis shows, and DiPascali’s testimony confirms, that none of the T-Bills purchased by the IA Business are the same T-Bills reported on customer statements, including Defendant’s. DiPascali described a complicated spreadsheet he created to calculate duration and volume of T-Bills that were not

owned but were reported on all customer statements. Cremona Decl., Ex. 2 (DiPascali Testimony) at 5344:24–5346:3 (Dec. 10, 2013); 4930:18–4931:5 (Dec. 5, 2013); Brown Decl., Ex. 2 (DiPascali Testimony) at 4803:23–4804:21 (Dec. 4, 2013). Defendant presents no admissible evidence to support his claim that his customer statements are in any way different than the thousands of other accounts.

Even if Defendant was able to rebut Mr. Dubinsky’s analysis or DiPascali’s testimony, which he cannot, he has no claim to an individual credit for T-Bills purchased by BLMIS as a cash management tool. SIPA only covers net equity claims for cash and securities “for the account of such customer.” SIPA § 78fff-2(b). There is no mechanism within SIPA or the Bankruptcy Code for any one customer to increase their net equity claim—or here, reduce their avoidance liability—because BLMIS earned interest on various short-term investments, including T-Bills. To the extent such property existed on the Filing Date, this property has already been allocated to the fund of customer property and distributed pro rata to customers with allowed claims. *See Order, In re Bernard L. Madoff*, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 12, 2011), ECF No. 4217 (approving allocation).

In addition, because BLMIS operated a Ponzi scheme, there are no transfers of “real profit” to be credited. So called “legitimate profits” cannot be separated from tainted funds when the money used to engage in the “legitimate” trades came from other customers who were defrauded by BLMIS. *See Scholes*, 56 F.3d at 757 (“It is no answer that some or for that matter all of Phillip’s profit may have come from “legitimate” trades made by the corporations. They were not legitimate. The money used for the trades came from investors gulled by fraudulent representations.”). Defendant argues that he can “trace” his “legitimate” profits to a real trade and therefore he is entitled to recoup that profit. In the context of Ponzi schemes, however,

tracing theories are almost universally rejected by courts as inequitable. *See SEC v. Byers*, 637 F. Supp. 2d 166, 177 (S.D.N.Y. 2009) (collecting cases); *SEC v. Infinity Grp. Co.*, 226 F. App'x 217, 218 (3d Cir. 2007) (“In the original Ponzi scheme case, *Cunningham v. Brown*, [] the Supreme Court held that ‘tracing’ fictions should not be used to pursue individual recoveries when a fraud ensnares multiple victims whose funds are commingled.” (citation omitted)).

In *In re Dreier LLP*, the Bankruptcy Court noted “reluctance to allow tracing and impose a constructive trust in bankruptcy is particularly compelling when it involves the commingled proceeds of a Ponzi scheme.” 429 B.R. 112, 137 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010). Here, the funds used to purchase the T-Bills came from the commingled funds in the 703 Account. Accordingly, allowing some defendants to cherry pick “profits”—at a time when the company was insolvent and owed billions of dollars to customers—would be to allow them to benefit at the expense of other, similarly-situated claimants. *In re BLMIS LLC*, 697 F. App'x 708, 711 (2d Cir. 2017).

Thus, even if Defendant was somehow able to show that BLMIS purchased a T-Bill, allocated the T-Bill to his account, and that the sale of the T-Bill resulted in a profit for his account—something Defendant cannot show—Defendant is still not entitled to a credit for any such hypothetical transaction under the case law.

IV. DEFENDANT’S AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY REJECTED

A. Defendant’s Purported Federal and State Law Claims or BLMIS’s Obligations Do Not Constitute “Value” Under Section 548(c)

As Defendant acknowledges, the Second Circuit recently held that BLMIS customers, like Defendant, “cannot invoke the ‘for value’ defense here in the same way in which they could if this were an ordinary bankruptcy because the defense operates differently in a SIPA liquidation.” *In re BLMIS LLC*, 2020 WL 5666677, at *12. Even if Defendant had enforceable claims under federal or state law, “a conclusion that satisfaction of those claims gave ‘value’ to

[BLMIS] would conflict with SIPA.” *Picard v. Greiff*, 476 B.R. 715, 727 (S.D.N.Y. 2012). This is because SIPA “differs from general bankruptcy law because it ‘choose[s] among creditors’ and prioritizes customers.” *In re BLMIS LLC*, 2020 WL 5666677, at *5 (citing *Greiff*, 476 B.R. at 727). Customers like Defendant, who have no net equity claims, may have valid claims and payment on those claims could discharge an antecedent debt, but:

[t]he types of claims that a customer may make against a customer property fund are those ‘relating to, or net equity claims based upon, securities or cash, . . . insofar as such obligations are ascertainable from the books and records of the debtor or otherwise established to the satisfaction of the trustee.’ 15 U.S.C. § 78fff-2(b). In the case at bar, the only such claims are those for a return of principal or net equity.

Id. at *12–13; *see also Picard v. Cohen*, Adv. Pro. No. 10-04311 (SMB), 2016 WL 1695296, at *12 n.17 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Apr. 25, 2016) (finding the “argument that payment in satisfaction of an unavowed obligation provides value misses the point. An obligation may be valid, but payments in excess of principal are avoidable and recoverable (in all Ponzi scheme cases) and violate the priority rules of SIPA”). This Court should not depart from the well-established precedent that limits value to the principal invested by good faith defendants.

B. Taxes May Not Be Considered as Part of Value Calculation

This Court and the District Court have already considered and rejected any defense allowing Defendant to offset his avoidance liability by the amount of taxes paid on the fraudulent transfers received from BLMIS. *See Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 236–37 (citing *Cohen*, 2016 WL 1695296, at *15 (stating “the offset would introduce complex problems of proof and tracing and reduce the [Trustee’s] ability to recover assets . . . at the expense of the other victims”)); *Picard v. Est. (Succession) of Doris Igoin (In re BLMIS)*, 525 B.R. 871, 893 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015) (“[T]he withdrawal of the money to pay taxes the [d]efendants never should have had to pay is not a defense to the fraudulent transfer claims.” (citation omitted)). “The prior decisions within

this SIPA proceeding constitute law of the case and Defendant[] offer[s] no reason or evidence . . . to revisit them here.” *Nelson*, 610 B.R. at 237 (quoting *Legacy*, 603 B.R. at 700).

C. The Trustee’s Treatment of Inter-Account Transfers Does Not Violate Federal or State Law

Finally, Defendant argues that “the Palmedo Account received only partial credit in the amount of \$150,000 for an ‘inter-account’ transfer of \$192,271 made on January 4 ,1993,” in contravention of federal and state law. Opp’n at 30. In effect, Defendant attempts to reargue the Second Circuit’s decision affirming the Trustee’s use of the “Inter-Account Transfer Method,” which applies the Net Investment Method to all accounts, including those that received one or more inter-account transfers (i.e., the purported transfer of funds from one BLMIS account to another BLMIS account). *In re BLMIS LLC*, 697 F. App’x at 708.

The Second Circuit rejected Defendant’s arguments that the Inter-Account Transfer Method violates federal securities laws and New York statutory and common law. *Id.* at 712–713. As the district court stated, “the recognition of transfers from one BLMIS account to another must, too, be limited by the net principal in the transferring account at the time of transfer.” *Diana Melton Tr., Dated 12/05/05 v. Picard (In re BLMIS LLC)*, No. 15 Civ. 1151 (PAE), 2016 WL 183492, at *9 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 14, 2016). Defendant’s approach “would necessarily result in treating certain fictitious gains in the recipient account (the amount by which the transfer exceeded the net equity in the transferring account) as if they were real.” *Id.*

As described in his expert reports, Mr. Greenblatt applied the Inter-Account Transfer Method to the Palmedo Account as part of the principal balance calculation, including citation to the BLMIS books and records supporting each inter-account transfer, all of which were produced to Defendant. *See* Greenblatt Report at n.6, ¶¶ 18, 27–28, ECF No. 105-1; Attach. B (Greenblatt Palmedo Report) ¶¶ 7–33; Exs. 4A–C, ECF Nos. 105-10, 105-14, 105-15, 105-16.

D. The Trustee is Entitled to Prejudgment Interest

Defendant argues prejudgment interest is inappropriate because he “did nothing wrong” but that is not the relevant inquiry. This Court has discretion in granting prejudgment interest and in setting the interest rate, “and absent a sound reason to deny it, it should be awarded.”

Picard v. Lowrey (In re Bernard L. Madoff), Adv. Pro. No. 10-04387 (SMB), 2018 WL 1442312, at *15 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 22, 2018), *adopted by*, 596 B.R. 451 (S.D.N.Y. 2019), *aff’d on other grounds*, 2020 WL 5666677.³

While Defendant may have unwittingly invested in the Ponzi scheme, he “still received money that was never in fact his to spend.” *Moran v. Goldfarb*, No. 09 Civ. 7667 (RJS), 2012 WL 2930210, at *9 (S.D.N.Y. July 16, 2012). At the very latest, Defendant knew he was a “net winner,” or possessed funds not generated from any purported securities investments, but rather funds BLMIS took from other customers or “net losers,” when the Trustee filed this avoidance action in December 2010. Despite this knowledge, Defendant has benefitted—and continues to benefit—from the fraudulent transfers in his possession, to the detriment of the net loser victims.

Prejudgment interest is appropriate to compensate the victims who have suffered due to the Ponzi scheme, and to avoid Defendant’s unjust enrichment. As the District Court stated:

Awarding prejudgment interest is based upon the premise that the party to whom the money is owed has been deprived of the use of the funds and can be made whole only by the award of interest. Conversely, the party owing the money has had the use of the funds he was obligated to have paid and should be required to pay compensation by way of interest.

Stanford Square L.L.C. v. Nomura Asset Cap. Corp., 232 F. Supp. 2d 289, 293 (S.D.N.Y. 2002); *see also West Virginia v. United States*, 479 U.S. 305, 310 n.2 (1987) (prejudgment interest is

³ The Trustee reserves his right to fully brief the applicability of prejudgment interest and the appropriate interest rate if this Court enters judgment against Defendant for the Two-Year Transfers.

“[t]o compensate for the loss of use of money due as damages from the time the claim accrues until judgment is entered.”); *Newbro v. Freed*, 409 F. Supp. 2d 386, 402 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) (“An important rationale for the prejudgment interest rule is that the party against whom the claim is asserted could have stopped the running of interest by paying what was owed . . .”).

Further, this Court should look to the baseline set in New York’s statutory prejudgment interest rate to award interest on a judgment where, as here, it accurately reflects the loss resulting from Defendant withholding the return of fictitious profits. In *Gust, Inc. v. Alphacap Ventures, LLC*, the district court denied a motion to reconsider awarding prejudgment interest at New York’s interest rate of nine percent, noting that “while [the plaintiff’s] claims arise out of federal law . . . there is no reason to think that the [federal] rate more accurately captures the true loss to [the plaintiff].” No. 15CV6192 (DLC), 2017 WL 2875642, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. July 6, 2017), *rev’d on other grounds*, 905 F.3d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 2018); *see also Alfano v. CIGNA Life Ins. Co.*, No. 07 Civ. 9661 (GEL), 2009 WL 890626, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 2, 2009) (while involving only federal claims under ERISA, the court determined New York’s statutory interest rate of 9% better reflected “the true loss to plaintiff”); *In re Livent, Inc.*, 360 F. Supp. 2d 568, 572 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) (holding that noteholders who brought federal securities claims were entitled to the forum state rate of 9% for prejudgment interest to fully compensate for investment losses). Thus, the Trustee is entitled to prejudgment interest on the Two-Year Transfers received by Defendant.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court grant summary judgment on Count One of the Trustee’s Complaint and enter an order avoiding the transfers of fictitious profits made by BLMIS to Defendant within the Two-Year Period, and requiring Defendant to return such transfers or the value thereof to the Trustee.

Dated: October 23, 2020
New York, New York

/s/ Nicholas J. Cremona

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